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SECURITY INFORMATION
REPORT

COUNTRY East Germany

TOPIC KVP at the Weisswasser Troop Training Grounds:

Beginning of Maneuvers in the Area of Traenke

EVALUATION [] 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED [] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT [] 25X1

DATE OBTAINED [] DATE PREPARED 29 September 1953

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 15 and 16 July 1953, a KVP shipment of about 30 converted boxcars with 450 to 600 KVPs stood at the Weisswasser railroad station. The troops were observed marching to the troop training grounds where they engaged in training activity with light machine guns and rifles. The troops were entrained again at the Weisswasser railroad station and left toward Spremberg at about 8:50 p.m. on 16 July 1953.¹
2. At about 8:30 p.m. on 21 July, a KVP shipment of about 25 cars with an estimated 500 KVPs passed through Weisswasser in the direction of Cottbus, having come from the direction of Goerlitz.¹
3. At 10:45 p.m. on 18 August, a KVP train of 20 to 23 cars with 400 to 500 troops passed through Weisswasser from the direction of Spremberg and proceeded toward Goerlitz.¹
4. Between 13 July and 20 August 1953, regular artillery fire with live ammunition was heard from the Weisswasser troop training grounds, with about three rounds fired each minute. Camp Nochten-Boxberg was still occupied by KVP. Most of the trucks observed in traffic between the camp and Weisswasser brought construction material to camp Nochten.
5. On 12 August, [] the KVP tank unit stationed at Weisswasser troop training grounds was commanded by on Major Fritz Richter from Halle who wore blue-bordered epaulets and blue collar patches.²
6. Between 8 a.m. and noon on 12 August, about 400 KVPs wearing red-bordered epaulets and black collar patches practiced firing with live ammunition with heavy machine guns at the infantry training site. About 400 other KVPs wearing yellow-bordered epaulets and black collar patches practiced there with heavy machine guns from 2 to 4 p.m. on 13 August. At about 8:30 a.m. on 18 August, about 350 troops with submachine guns marched from Camp Nochten to the training site. KVPs were engaged in submachine gun and heavy machine gun firing on the firing range and in firing practice at practice targets in the terrain at 1 p.m.¹

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25X1

- 2 -

- 25X1 7. Tanks and AT artillery practiced firing on the tank firing range from
25X1 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. during the night of 14 August. Red and green ground
25X1 signals were fired. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 17 and 18 August, tanks
and AT artillery practiced firing on the training site.¹ T-34/85 tank
[redacted] towed to Camp Nochten from the tank firing range at 1 p.m.
on 18 August.¹
- 25X1 8. On 13 August, 8 T-34/85 tanks [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] practiced driving in forest sections No 98, 99,
25X1 100 and 114 on the tank training site near Camp Tzschelin. Driving prac-
25X1 tices held there on 19 August included 10 T-34/85 tanks. [redacted]
9. [redacted]
- 25X1 10. At about 6 a.m. on 12 August, 2 railroad tank cars at the Weisswasser rail-
25X1 road station were emptied into tank trucks [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] each with a trailer, which left toward Nochten. Two boxcars and
a refrigerator car were unloaded at the supply depot at about 10 a.m. the
same day.¹
- 25X1 11. Between 17 and 23 August, 5 SU-76 guns and 9 trucks, including 4 tank
trucks, were observed on the tank parking lot of Camp Nochten. An unde-
termined number of T-34 tanks were parked in the camp. Five T-34 tanks
[redacted] and up to 4 SU-76
guns were daily observed between the camp and the tank training site east
of Tzschelin. KVPs stated that driving practices and small-scale combat
exercises were held on the tank training site. Tank firing was heard daily
from the Nochten firing range.¹

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25X1



- 3 -

25X1

12. On 20 August 1953, the 1st Tank Training Bn from Zeithain, with its companies numbering 70 men each, left Camp Nochten to be loaded at Uhyst railroad station. On the same day, 100 KVPs without heavy weapons arrived in Camp Nochten from Spremberg equipped with two field kitchens.³

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13. On 6 September, [redacted] large-scale KVP maneuvers were held on the Traenke Troop training grounds near Ritschen. All approach roads were blocked by KVP from 31 August to 10 September, daily from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. KVP that relieved the guards arrived on truck [redacted] Motor vehicles [redacted] were identified on the training grounds.⁴

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1. [redacted] Comment. Coverage of the Weisswasser troop training grounds indicates no changes prior to 23 August 1953. [redacted]

2. [redacted] Comment. One Major Richter was reported to have been training officer at the tank officer school in Erfurt in March 1953.

3. [redacted] Comment. The departure for Zeithain of the tank training battalion was reported previously.

4. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] in early August that large-scale maneuvers were to be conducted at the Traenke troop training grounds. [redacted]

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